









ness, whose return to, or further continuance in his present capacity has been hailed with great satisfaction by the members of the Customs Service throughout China.



## ENGLAND, FRANCE &amp; INDO-CHINA.

The current number of *Blackwood's Magazine* contains an interesting article on the above subject. Having sketched the history and present condition of Cambodia and Siam—the two central kingdoms of the Indo-China peninsula—and of the countries which flank them, Burmah, the West and Annam on the East, the writer enters into the proceedings of the French in Annam, and the hostilities with China which resulted therefrom, and which ended in peace being made by China agreeing to recognize the French protectorate over Annam. He points out that the net result of all this is that at the present moment France has incorporated into her dominions the whole of Indo-China, extending upwards of 200 miles in length, from the Chinese province of Kwangtung to the frontiers of Cambodia. The writer then proceeds as follows:

As we have already said, French designs on Annam began in a desire to inflict a blow on the prosperity of England, and they were doubtless subsequently followed by the reported mineral wealth of the country. Later investigations have, however, thrown considerable doubts on the value of the coal and other mines; and unquestionably the difficulty of getting at them is so great, that under French auspices their practical value as they were represented to be, amounts to very little. In fact, the invasion of Annam is another instance of the invincible habit which the French have of undertaking arduous and difficult campaigns with light hearts begotten of ignorance. To state the plain fact, the French have the conquest of a country defended by Oriental soldiers appears to be a matter of easy accomplishment. But never enters into their calculations that a country to be annexed must be brought by a series of campaigns to the point of conquest, and that the conquest of a country is only the beginning of the difficulties which follow.

Events will show how far the French Government is prepared to go in furtherance of the scheme, but it would be absurd in us to shut our eyes to the dangers which the aggressive policy is likely to occasion to our influence and commerce in Indo-China. We may laugh at the idea of a French empire in the East as being chimerical, but much mischief may be done in attempting to establish it. It is doubtless true that the French have not yet been able to make a bad cook may break the necessary eggs, and yet fail to produce an omelet. With Cambodia virtually French, with Siam bulled into compliance with French schemes, and with Burmah alienated from our trade in Indo-China would inevitably suffer, and we should find a second Afghanistan established on our eastern frontier, which in time of war and of foreign complications would be used as an instrument to plague us. Fortunately the King of Siam is a man of wisdom and enlightenment, and is quite able to see clearly in which direction the true interests of his country lie. He sees that by developing the resources of his country and by educating his people he may elevate it and then into a position which will enable him to hold his own against all comers. He sees that in the countries which surround him, weakness, have been compelled to yield to France, and that trade has remained stagnant. He sees clearly enough that France is seeking out her resources in the direction of his country, and he looks to us to give him that legitimate support which will enable him to resist the encroachments with which he is threatened. It is to be feared that the fate of Cambodia is almost past praying for, but Siam is still French, and backed by the support which a firm line of policy on our part would supply, form a strong and definite barrier to the French advance. We are glad to see that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce is urging on the India Office the wisdom of establishing a railway, and of connecting that possession with Western China, through Siam and the Shan States. If these views prevail, not only will British trade be greatly benefited, and Siam will receive a substantial measure of the support which it requires; but the present position of affairs in the peninsula is marvellous, and all the quicker because the French undertakings in Indo-China and Tonquin have not been successful. A rapid, and it is likely to be, a victorious campaign movement is likely to command itself to the French commanders as the easiest way of obliterating the desired result, it would undoubtedly be doomed to ultimate failure, while the rebellion may be gauged by that already endured under like conditions by the people of Cochinchina and Tonquin. In these circumstances the truest and best policy for us to pursue lies plainly before us. We should endeavor to establish a firm alliance with the threatened States, and thus prevent any further extension of this system of "colonization" which has been justly described by M. Clemenceau as a series of crimes and oppressions.

It is stated by Mr. Scott, in his recent work "France and Tonquin," that at the present time, after France has been in possession of the Cochinchina provinces for twenty-three years, only one French mercantile firm is to be found at Saigon. It is a fact, also, that for the first eighteen months after the signature of the much vaunted Franco-Annamite treaty of 1874, no French merchant vessels entered the Red River. Eleven English ships, six German, and 116 Chinese, sailed there, but not one French. But the climax is reached when we find that in Cochinchina the population declined from 1,697,018 in 1880 to 1,549,497 in 1883. On the other hand, the annual value of the imports and exports shows a slight tendency to increase. Thus, according to official returns, the imports in 1878 were of the value of 4,432,889 dollars, and four years later this amount had risen to 9,224,735 dollars. In the same way the exports within the same period, grew up from 10,844,020 dollars to 11,812,415 dollars. Notoriously the colony is a constant drain on the Republican treasury, and unless in the future there should be a steady influx of emigrants from France, the outlay will have been found to have been incurred for the benefit of other nations. The French population there is, in common with the population generally, a marked tendency towards numerical decline, as is shown by the official statistics of 1880, from which we learn that in that year at Saigon there were 7 French merchants, 46 British, and 109 Chinese. Not only, however, do Frenchmen make bad colonists, but they everywhere fail to gain the confidence and enlist the co-operation of the natives over whom they assume rule. The French moral force is not strong enough to withstand the enervating effect of debauched Oriental methods of raising the natives to their own level, they fall to the level of the natives, and by this process they lose all title to respect, as well as all the influence for good which should attach to them as belonging to a higher and a wiser race. The French of these figures show also the confidence of the natives in the justice and fair dealing of their conquerors, and the French have no other weapon than the Chapsout with which to encounter the dislike and unwillingness to submit thus engendered. The result is that a permanent garrison of 4,600 men is required to support the 1,622 civil functionaries who govern Cochinchina; and in Tunis and Algeria, with a population of less than 3,000,000, an occupying force of 75,000 men is necessary for the preservation of order. A comparison of these figures with the statistics of India, where, with a population of 250,000,000, 50,000 British troops are held to be sufficient to protect the country from disorder and violence, illustrates the different

effects produced on Oriental by the objectless and tyrannical rule of France and the wise and just government of England. Unfortunately, also, in moments of danger and excitement, the French element in the French character shows itself in a terrible and atrocious way, and the atrocious cruelties of which soldiers fighting under the tricolor have at times been guilty in Algeria add Annam and on numerous to the weight under which French rule lies to struggle, and have left a legacy of hate which would take many years of even just and temperate government to obliterate from the minds of the people. As colonies Cochinchina and Annam, including Tonquin, are and must remain valuable to France; but more than this, they are proving extremely costly. So eminently unsuited are their climates to the French constitution that it is found impossible to keep soldiers in Annam for more than two years at a time, and it is now proposed to reduce this period to eighteen months. The constant passage to and fro of troops thus made necessary entails an expenditure of money and men which forms not the least heavy tax which France has to pay for the glory of possessing colonies and of establishing an empire in Asia. At present the desire of indicating a humiliation on England, which has been the main spring of their Eastern policy, has made every burden appear light in the eyes of Frenchmen. By the establishment of a protectorate over Annam they have gained a firm footing in the Indo-Chinese peninsula, and they will probably now advance a step further in prosecution of their ultimate design, by pushing on the diplomatic intrigues which have been brewing for some time in Cambodia, Siam, and Burmah. Already a quasi protectorate is claimed over Cambodia, and French attempts have been made to establish preponderating French interests both at Bangkok and Mandalay.

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ing us, as it were, in a gentle slumber to the regions beyond the shadow of the tomb. The Fall Destroyer makes his first approach in many forms, but none are more favored by him than that of a deadly foe now preying upon the very victims of Modern Society. What is this foe? There are few among us who have not been or are now to some extent its victims. Would the reader know if he, too, is under the ban of this highest scourge? Let him ask himself whether he experiences any of the following symptoms:—

There are pains about the chest and sides, and sometimes in the back. The mouth has a bad taste, especially in the morning; and there are feelings of dizziness. The appetite is poor, a sort of sticky slime collects about the teeth, there is a feeling as of a heavy load on the stomach, and sometimes a faint, all-gone sensation at the pit of the stomach, which food does not satisfy. The eyes are aken, the hands and feet become cold and clammy. After a while a cough sets in, at first dry, but attended in the course of a few months with expectoration of a greenish colour. The sufferer feels constantly tired, and sleep seems to afford little rest. Nervousness, irritability, and evil forebodings follow. When rising suddenly, there is a giddiness, a sort of whirling sensation in the head. The bowels become constipated, the skin is dry and hot at times; the blood becomes thick and stagnant; the whites of the eyes are tinged with yellow, the urine is scanty and high colored, and a depositing a sediment after standing. There is frequently a spitting up of the food—at times with a sour taste and at others with a sweet taste. This is often attended with palpitation of the heart or impaired vision, with spots before the eyes, and sometimes with a feeling of heat in the head. All of these symptoms are in turn present. It is thought that nearly one-third of our population has this disease in some of its varied forms. Medical men have mistaken the nature of the malady. Its true name is Dyspepsia or indigestion, for which a cure is readily to be found in Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup—a medicine which has won in both hemispheres a confidence founded only on its great virtues. The Syrup can be obtained from any chemist or medicine vendor, or from the proprietors, Dr. J. M. Seigel (limited), 17, Farringdon Road, London, E.C.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY.  
YOUR PREPARATION IS AN EXCEPTION.  
The Pharmacy, Regent Road,  
"Great Yarmouth," May 1883.  
"Dear Sir,—Your medicine would meet a great success. You can quite understand that I have not much opinion of what are called quack medicines, which are generally sold all over the world, and I should be glad to see them swept out of existence with the sweep of a broom. Your preparation, however, is an exception, and is undoubtedly useful. One of my brothers took it with considerable benefit; and to be candid with you, I only laughed at him, and said, 'His faith had healed him.' But he held his own against all comers. He sees that in the countries which surround him, weakness, have been compelled to yield to France, and that trade has remained stagnant. He sees clearly enough that France is seeking out her resources in the direction of his country, and he looks to us to give him that legitimate support which will enable him to resist the encroachments with which he is threatened. It is to be feared that the fate of Cambodia is almost past praying for, but Siam is still French, and backed by the support which a firm line of policy on our part would supply, form a strong and definite barrier to the French advance. We are glad to see that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce is urging on the India Office the wisdom of establishing a railway, and of connecting that possession with Western China, through Siam and the Shan States. If these views prevail, not only will British trade be greatly benefited, and Siam will receive a substantial measure of the support which it requires; but the present position of affairs in the peninsula is marvellous, and all the quicker because the French undertakings in Indo-China and Tonquin have not been successful. A rapid, and it is likely to be, a victorious campaign movement is likely to command itself to the French commanders as the easiest way of obliterating the desired result, it would undoubtedly be doomed to ultimate failure, while the rebellion may be gauged by that already endured under like conditions by the people of Cochinchina and Tonquin. In these circumstances the truest and best policy for us to pursue lies plainly before us. We should endeavor to establish a firm alliance with the threatened States, and thus prevent any further extension of this system of "colonization" which has been justly described by M. Clemenceau as a series of crimes and oppressions.

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Hongkong, October 29, 1885. 1884

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